

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 87 - HB 1010**

February 26, 2013

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes any registered voter who has either registered to vote in person, or who has voted in an election since registering to vote by mail, to request an absentee ballot and to vote by absentee ballot.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$1,355,300/FY15-16 and Every Four Years Thereafter**

**Increase Local Expenditures –**

**\$1,355,300/FY13-14 and Every Four Years Thereafter\***

**\$2,710,600/FY14-15 and Every Two Years Thereafter\***

**Assumptions:**

- Currently, registered voters are authorized to vote by absentee ballot under specific circumstances, such as, absence from the county on Election Day, observance of a religious holiday, or serving as an election official.
- Costs vary by county based on the size of the county, the number of registered voters, and the specific needs of each county.
- Based on information collected from counties by the Division of Elections, there will be an increase in expenditures for printing and mailing costs. Some counties will require additional staff to process additional absentee ballots.
- Based on the results of the survey of counties, the statewide cost per election is estimated to be \$1,355,312.
- In FY15-16, the state will be responsible for these increased expenditures due to the Presidential Preference Primary; as a result, an increase in state expenditures of \$1,355,312 in FY15-16. These expenditures will be paid by the state once every four years thereafter.
- In FY13-14, and every four years thereafter, local governments will be responsible for these expenditures due to May county primary elections. As a result, the increase in local expenditures is estimated to be \$1,355,312.
- In FY14-15, and every two years thereafter, local governments will be responsible for these expenditures due to August and November general elections. As a result, the

increase in local government expenditures is estimated to be \$2,710,624 (\$1,355,312 x 2 elections).

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucian D. Geise', written in a cursive style.

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jaw